

Questions and Answers  
*about the*  
**Clean Wheat Program**  
for 1956



ARRANGED BY

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# *Clean Wheat Program*

## **1. What is the clean wheat program?**

It is a part of an overall effort by the U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare to reduce the amount of contamination in products used for human food.

## **2. What agency is in charge of the inspection and seizure proceedings?**

The Department of Health, Education and Welfare has directed the U. S. Food and Drug Administration to sample cars of wheat and to institute legal action under the Federal Pure Food Law against lots of wheat contaminated by rodents or damaged by insects.

## **3. Will wheat stored on farms or in country elevators be subject to seizure?**

No. The enforcement phase under the jurisdiction of the Food and Drug Administration will apply only to wheat shipped either by the government or private shippers in interstate commerce. Any shipment of wheat deemed to be in interstate commerce may be inspected and subject to seizure if it does not meet the standards established.

## **4. What are the latest standards for clean wheat?**

According to an announcement by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, wheat will be judged contaminated:

- (1) If it contains one or more rodent pellets per pint and/or
- (2) If it contains 1 percent or more of insect damaged grain by weight.

## **5. What about "treated" wheat?**

Grain that contains any poisonous material, such as chemicals used in treating seed, or in rodent or insect control, may be declared unfit for human or animal consumption. No "treated" wheat should be intermingled with food or feed wheat and such wheat should be used for seed purposes only.

**6. What will become of wheat that is seized?**

Wheat seized and found to be unfit for human consumption becomes involved in court proceedings. Representatives of the Food and Drug Administration may permit denaturing the grain or grinding it into mixed feed or converting it into alcohol, or other processing which will take it out of food channels, if it contains no poisonous treatments.

**7. Who is responsible for losses in case of seized grain?**

The shipper or owner of grain seized is responsible for its condition, according to present interpretations, and he is liable for costs involved in the seizure proceedings as well as the loss of value of the grain. In the end, the shipper receives a bill made up of lawyer fees, court costs, possible fines, expense of the Food and Drug Administration in the case, demurrage and loses the difference in the sales price of the grain as between food and feed wheat.

**8. What loss would be involved on a car of seized wheat?**

The actual dollar loss may vary considerably and will depend upon conditions involved with the particular shipment. However, it is reasonable to assume that the losses involved in the seizure of a car of wheat (1,800 bushels) may exceed \$1,500 to \$2,000.

**9. How can farmers and elevator operators best protect themselves from losses?**

The best way to prevent losses under the seizure program is to do the best possible job of harvesting, storing and handling of wheat. This means that only clean dry wheat should be placed in storage and that the storage building be rodent and bird proof to prevent contamination. Damage from stored grain insects can be prevented by thorough bin cleaning and spraying with a good re-

sidual insecticide followed by fumigation after the grain is placed in storage. Stored wheat should be checked frequently to make certain it is not going out of condition and to see if stored grain insects are present. Wheat which does not meet the established standards is feed wheat and it should be disposed of in feed channels at a price in accordance with its value.

**10. Will the grain sanitation requirements be incorporated into the official grain standards?**

There has been continued talk about this possibility, but no official action as yet.

**11. How do these regulations apply to the wheat price-support program?**

The wheat when placed under loan or when delivered under loan or purchase agreement (1) must not contain one or more rodent pellets, or comparable amounts of other filth, per pint of wheat (liquid measure), nor 1 percent or more by weight of kernels visibly damaged by weevils or other insects, and (2) must not contain mercurial compounds or other substances poisonous to man or animals.

**12. Where can I obtain additional information about the "Clean Wheat Program"?**

Your county extension agent can give you additional information on bin spraying, grain fumigation and rodent control.